AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of ferric oxide precipitates having a selected particle size, **the process** comprising

(a) obtaining an aqueous feed solution comprising iron solubilized in one of nitric acid, sulfuric acid, and hydrochloric acid, the aqueous feed solution having a pH ranging from about 0.25 to about 2.5; and

(b) subjecting the aqueous feed solution to a combination of

(i) a temperature **from about 100ºC to about 300ºC,**

(ii) a seeding ratio **from about 20% to about 2000%, wherein the seeding ratio is a ratio of a weight of a seed solid to a weight of an expected unseeded precipitate product, and wherein the selected particle size of the ferric oxide precipitates is smaller than a particle size of the ferric oxide precipitates obtained with a seeding ratio of 0%**, and

(iii) pressures **ranging from about 40 psig to about 1300 psig**

to obtain ferric oxide precipitates of the selected particle size **from about 0.1 to about 10 microns**.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the temperature is from about 175°C to about 240°C.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the seeding ratio is from about 50% to about 500%.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the selected particle size is from about 0.15 to about 2.5 microns.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates are obtained in from about one minute to about 6 hours.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates are obtained in from about 30 minutes to about 1 hour.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said process is conducted at a pressure of from about 100 to about 500 psig.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates are obtained from a feed solution comprising iron solubilized in nitric acid.

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim **1** **[[13]]** wherein the feed solution has an iron concentration of from about 5 g/L up to the onset of crystallization of a ferric salt.

16. (Currently amended) The process of claim **1** **[[13]]** wherein the feed solution has an iron concentration of from about 10 g/L to about 100 g/L.

17. (Currently amended) The process of claim **1** **[[13]]** wherein the feed solution has an iron concentration of from about 30 g/L to about 60 g/L.

18. (Currently amended) The process of claim **1** **[[13]]** wherein the feed solution has a free acid concentration of from about **5** **[[0]]** g/L to about 150 g/L.

19. (Currently amended) The process of claim **1** **[[13]]** wherein the feed solution has a free acid concentration of from about 30 g/L to about 70 g/L.

20. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an L* of about 40 to about 60.

21. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an L* of about 49 to about 55.

22. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an a* of about 10 to about 40.

23. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an a* of about 19 to about 33.

24. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an b* of about 5 to about 35.

25. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have an b* of about 12 to about 28.

26. (Original) The process of claim 1 conducted in a batch or a continuous fashion.

27. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the ferric oxide precipitates have a smooth surface texture.